

MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting
September 9, 2003

6:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:01 p.m., Tuesday, September 9, 2003, in the East Room, York Hall, by Chairman James S. Burgett.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Sheila S. Noll, Donald E. Wiggins, James S. Burgett, and Thomas G. Shepperd.

Walter C. Zaremba was absent

Also in attendance were James O. McReynolds, County Administrator; J. Mark Carter, Assistant County Administrator; and James E. Barnett, County Attorney.

WORK SESSION

PROPOSAL FOR MERGER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENTITIES—PENINSULA AND SOUTHSIDE

Mr. McReynolds noted that discussion has taken place over the last several months concerning the possible merger of the two economic development organizations. He provided background on the Peninsula Alliance for Economic Development (PAED) that was created in 1997. Last year discussion started about the combination resulting in questions concerning funding, and the issue was postponed. He noted that discussion was renewed early this year. Mr. McReynolds then reviewed the merger proposal that would include an equitable board arrangement with headquarters being in Norfolk and a Peninsula office of substantial size. Protocol for equal access to inquiries would be determined, and funding would be determined by \$1 per capita. He stated questions still are outstanding concerning what happens to Workforce Development on the Peninsula and the staffing requirements for the new organization.

Mrs. Noll noted the proposal had not been accepted by the Peninsula or Southside yet.

Mr. McReynolds affirmed that there has been no formal action taken by either side at this time.

Discussion followed as to how the proposal was initiated.

Mr. Rick Weigel, Executive Director, PAED, stated the person who brought the two sides together to begin discussions was Bill Butler of the Hampton Roads Partnership and the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA).

Chairman Burgett asked who worked up the proposal.

Mr. Weigel stated it was the Southside Alliance that outlined a proposal based on information provided by both alliances. He stated the PAED officers looked at it and said it wouldn't work, and they came back with another proposal. Neither side has formally considered the proposal for merger.

Mr. McReynolds then reviewed the comparative data regarding staffing and budget of the PAED and HREDA.

Discussion followed on the impact such a proposed merger would have on the Peninsula Workforce Development organization.

Mr. McReynolds then reviewed expected benefits, merger concerns, as well as York County considerations/concerns with the proposal. He stated staff at this time is asking for guidance on how to proceed.

Chairman Burgett stated the Board needed to reach a consensus on this issue, in that it is coming up in both Alliance meetings as well as with the Workforce Development Board. As a member of both, he stated he needed to know the Board's consensus to pass on. Chairman Burgett stated he could remember when the VPEDC was in operation and Mr. Denton coming to the YCBA to give a report, which stated \$462 million was received and 10,000 jobs were in place on the Peninsula, and York County's share was less than \$1 million. He indicated the County now gets every lead. He stated if this proposal is adopted, York County will receive leads the same as before, and there is no way to determine how many York County will get. He stated the County couldn't afford to lose the current marketing support it is receiving.

Mrs. Noll expressed her agreement with Mr. Burgett, stating she has watched the evolution of the PAED with the initial thought to look toward merging the two; but the business community does not want it. She stated York County is made up of smaller businesses and has a good share of the opportunities. For the County to join with a group when the transportation problems in the area can't be solved, she stated she feels it is in the County's best interest to remain as it is. More ground work will have to be done before any merger can be made.

Mr. Wiggins stated that even though he would like more regionalism between the Peninsula and the Southside, he doesn't see it happening. He noted there are more and more backups on the bridges, and no new bridge crossings are in sight for the next 10 years. He stated he envisions a new interstate on the Isle of Wight side, and the two regions will be more separated than is the case now. Mr. Wiggins stated the County's future is in cooperation with the jurisdictions on the Peninsula side of the Hampton Roads.

Mr. Shepperd stated the assumption is always that someone is thinking of something better, but in this case he is thinking about what is wrong with the Peninsula organization as it is now. He stated he's very pleased with and proud of everything he's seen coming out of the Peninsula operation. The jurisdictions on the Peninsula are unique, and Mr. Wiggins was correct in that York County's focus is more with James City County and in that direction.

Discussion followed concerning the proposed merger.

By consensus, the Board members agreed not to support the current proposal for merger of the economic development organizations on the Peninsula and Southside.

PROPOSED 2004 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. McReynolds stated that several weeks ago Mr. Barnett and Mrs. Smith sent the Board some information on proposed items, and at this time staff wishes to go over them and add some others for the Board's consideration. He asked that as the Board goes through the proposal to let staff know which ones the Board wishes to be included in next year's package.

Chairman Burgett stated the Board wishes to prioritize the legislative items this year in order to select the ones that have the greatest chance of achievement with the General Assembly.

At this time Mr. McReynolds and the Board members reviewed the proposed 2004 Legislative items and by consensus agreed to include the following issues and directed staff to complete the prioritization process with the tax/funding income matters having the No. 1 priority and the BRAC issue having the No. 2 priority:

Impact of State Budget Cuts and State Tax Reform

Restore Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) Funding

Transportation Safety—Photo Red Traffic Signal Enforcement

Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)

Local Cigarette Tax

Removal of Public Officers

VDOT Revenue Sharing

Abandoned Advertising Signs

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Enforcement

State Income Tax Revenues

Substitute Days for Judges of the General District and Juvenile and Domestic
Relations Courts

Parking Regulations

Consolidated Telecommunications Taxation

Tax Restructuring

By consensus, the Board directed staff to prepare a final draft of the 2004 Legislative Program to be reviewed by the Board prior to adoption. Staff was directed to provide Mr. Zaremba with the consensus reached this evening for his input prior to developing the final draft. The Board also directed Mr. McReynolds to add the issue of Optional Maintenance Provisions for the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (Volume II) to a future work session agenda.

Meeting Adjourned. At 7:27 p.m. Chairman Burgett declared that the meeting be adjourned sine die.

James O. McReynolds, Clerk
York County Board of Supervisors

James S. Burgett, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors